IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3-7, 9-12, 15, 16, 19-21 and 23 as follows:

3. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 1 wherein the supporting portion of the stent is fabricated to incorporate a non-planar curved form.

4. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 1 wherein the supporting portion is fabricated to incorporate a geometric arrangement of the vessel whereby the tangent vector from the centreline of the stent intersects the centreline of the vessel by consequence of a symmetric disposition of the stent with respect to the vessel at the junction with the stent.

5. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 1 which is of generally hollow tubular shape with three-dimensional curvature.

6. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 1 in the form of an open lattice generally tubular framework with discrete openings at each end thereof.

7. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 1 comprising a first supporting structure adapted to support or otherwise contact part of the vessel, with a secondary supporting structure extending away from the first supporting structure, but simultaneously capable of supporting the vessel part, said secondary structure capable of maintaining a vessel part when located therein in non-planar curvature.

9. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 7 wherein said elongate members define a curved section whose curvature is non-planar.

10. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 1 fabricated from a material capable of torsional flexibility, such as from shape memory alloy.

a2 11. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 1 which is for use in supporting a vessel part internally, fabricated from a linked mesh or series of linked wire members which is coiled or partly coiled or helical or partly helical.

12. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 1 in combination with a device which assists in monitoring the condition of the vessel.

a3 15. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sensor is adapted to transmit signals which can be monitored by at least one of ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging and electron spin resonance imaging techniques.

16. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sensor portion forms an integral part of the stent and the means of excitation and signal detection are entirely extracorporeal.

a4 19. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 17 wherein the sensory device is ring-shaped and is electrically connected to a remote module incorporating power supply, signal detection and recording means.

20. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 17 wherein the sensory device is adapted to transmit signals which can be monitored by at least one of ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging and electron spin resonance techniques.

21. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 17 wherein the sensory device forms an integral part of the stent and the

a4 means of excitation and signal detection are entirely extracorporeal.

a5 23. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 22 in combination with a sensor device as defined in claim 13.